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## 2 D 16 USDA CLUB NEWS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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DALLAS, TEXAS, USA

IT'S A  
Texas Fact!

The Texas soil, long noted for its fertility, has lost some of its productivity. We seldom hear of any record-breaking achievements relating to farm products anymore. We recall one instance that, while not unusual, illustrates our meaning. It concerns a cucumber grown by a south Texas farmer. He shipped it to Dallas and it only took 11 flat cars. They

(see page 2)

**Gems...**

A group of African prisoners of war were shuffling along under guard. Listless, shoulders stooped, they were the picture of dejection—all but one. Shoulders squared, head erect, his dignity was in striking contrast to the others.

"What's happened to that fellow?" an officer asked. The sergeant's reply was illuminating: "He's the son of a king, and he never forgets it!"

Do you sometimes forget that you, too, are a son of a King—"The mightiest of all"?

Secretary Brannan Speaks.

Speaking before members of the USDA Club in the auditorium of First Methodist Church, the Honorable Charles F. Brannan, Secretary of Agriculture, emphasized his belief in the integrity and high moral standards of Department of Agriculture employees by stating that in his opinion the standards were as high as they have ever been in history. "Over the last four years," Mr. Brannan stated, "we've had about 150 investigations of one kind or another, from outside sources such as the congress, GAO, and others. Out of these there was not one recommendation that either civil or criminal action of any kind be instituted against one employee." Earnestly he added, "I hope that brings you the same kind of pride it does me!"

"We ought to remind ourselves," he continued, "that we are not perfect; but we have been our own most severe critic. We have been our own investigator."

Mr. Brannan pointed out that the processes of democracy are undergoing the most severe stress in the history of the United States. He warned against mistaking rumor for fact...Against taking our news from the headlines alone. "Be informed," he said, referring to matters pertaining to, and affecting our work.

He noted the difference between the Hoover Com-  
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Disaster Loans For Entire State

The 97 counties in Texas hitherto eligible for disaster loans from the Department's emergency loan fund administered by Farmers Home Administration, were joined by the remaining 157 under a recent order by Secretary Brannan designating the entire state as a disaster area. The order will bring FHH aid to many droughtstricken farmers.

# Clarence Fertsch Selected "Member of The Month" For February

The "Member of the Month" citation for February was given to Mr. Clarence J. Fertsch, employed in the Area Finance Office of Farmers Home Administration, for his continued and varied activity in the field of community service. In recommending his selection to the USDA Club Board of Directors Chairman V. S. Twaddell emphasized that his Work of the Department Committee was particularly impressed by the fact that Mr. Fertsch, through his long-continued efforts on behalf of the Community Chest, Red Cross, YMCA and other worthwhile community welfare organizations, has become known as "Mr. Agriculture among those agencies, and the man to contact when plans for a new drive are projected. Since this activity reflects in a favorable way upon the Department of Agriculture as a whole, his selection is both a happy and a well-merited one.

Born in Hallettsville, Texas, Clarence enrolled in Texas University for a course of business study after his graduation from Hallettsville High School. He also attended Massey Business College in Houston before taking a position with the Treasury Department, office of disbursement, in San Antonio. After the office was moved to Dallas he continued his work with Treasury until March 31, 1939, and then the next day went to work for Farm Security Administration holding the same position of senior accounting clerk. He is presently employed as a unit supervisor in FHA's fund accounting section, and always has time for a slow smile and a cheery word for anyone who drops by.

Clarence also finds time to be active in the United Lutheran Church of Dallas. His special pet project, however, is "boys" and his "special drive" among co-workers for the YMCA makes it possible for many underprivileged boys to enjoy the privileges and benefits of a Y membership at a fraction of the regular price, and at no cost to the boys themselves.

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## ...IT'S A TEXAS FACT! (From page 1)...

used 65 winches (watch that "i" Mr. printer!) to load it. There were the usual medium-sized warts on it which necessitated moving all the telephone posts back 29 feet on each side of the right-of-way, as well as structural changes in the bridges along the route. Through an oversight the stem was left dragging along behind and it was the last train to run over the railroad--the dragging stem destroyed it as fast as it was pulled along--clear into Dallas. As a result of this unscheduled ditching job Houston became a deepwater port and Dallas has been smelling salt water ever since, while bridging the depression with a half dozen viaducts and calling it the Trinity River. The produce firm of Lettuce Havitt stored the cucumber in their refrigerated warehouse and it caused

all their produce as well as the ice-making machinery to freeze solid. (That's how the expression "cool as a cucumber" got started) and from that incident stems our giant "quick-freeze" industry. I don't recall what happened to the cucumber but the peeling was used to resurface a main-traveled highway and after 50 years it shows no wear, to speak of. The conductor who made up the train was fired, and some unkind skeptics will claim the Editor made this up, But IT'S A TEXAS FACT!

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N O T I C E !  
A film entitled "IS GOVERNMENT TELLING ITS STORY?" will be telecast over WFAA-TV March 27 at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Robert Ramspeck, Chairman of the Civil Service Commission will be featured. USDA members and their friends will find it interesting and informative. See papers for any schedule change.

ALL AGENCIES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT ARE COOPERATING IN BLOOD DONATIONS TO THE USDA BLOOD BANK. PERCENTAGEWISE, IT'S A "HOSSRACE" BETWEEN PMA AND FHA. SINCE COMPLETE FIGURES ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO PRINT THEM.

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
YOU will be given a chance to go!  
(It's something we tho't you'd like to know!)

Hansel And Gretel.

\*\*Details later\*\*

P O N T I A C FOR SALE!  
1947 Streamline Eight; 4-door sedan. Windshield washer, rear windshield wiper, fog lights, radio, heater, defroster, new seat covers. In A-1 mechanical condition. PRICE \$875.00 Extension 2002--BARRON.

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Remember, Up Above the clouds  
The Sun is Shining!

...SECRETARY BRANNAN SPEAKS.....(from page 1)

mission, and the Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report, the last of which has been somewhat critical of Agriculture's cooperation in carrying out the Hoover recommendations regarding USDA. He said that in almost every case where regulations permit the Hoover recommendations have been complied with. On the subject of economy he said that of course he was for it as much as any other taxpayer, but rightly and intelligently applied. "We are doing more work--more different things--than we did ten years ago with a much smaller number of employees and at a lower budget cost." Of the present investigations he asserted flatly "We will come out of them with increased prestige!"

Mr. Brannan keynoted his address with these words: "We have the right to stick our chins out and say 'I'm proud to be in public service...and to be in the Department of Agriculture!'" He concluded by saying that the problems confronting the Department will be met forthrightly and intelligently. He expressed his thanks to USDA employees in this area for their cooperation in carrying out the USDA program for the farmer. He was introduced by Mr. John Bolish, USDA Club president.

Mr. Secretary is one of the few career employees to attain such eminence in government service, and one of the most able administrators to hold the reins of Agriculture. Born in Denver August 23, 1903, he attended Denver public schools, graduated from the University of Denver Law School in 1929. He entered government service in 1935 with the Resettlement Administration, appointed Director of Region Ten of the succeeding Farm Security Administration in 1941 he held that position until April, 1944 after which he went to Washington as Assistant FSA Administrator. Following this he was appointed to Assistant Secretary and then Secretary of Agriculture June 2, 1948. He is the originator of the Brannan Plan, with which we are all familiar.

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DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR THE "MEMBER OF THE MONTH" AWARD!! A POST CARD WILL DO! Address it to Mr. V. S. Twaddell, Chairman, Work of the Department Committee, USDA, 2007 McKinney Ave.

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Myths' Versus Facts!!!

T H E   M Y T H : Government Employees Engage In Political Activities.

T H E   F A C T : The Hatch Act FORBIDS them to do so. They can vote and express opinions as private citizens, but NO POLITICKIN'!

## POLIOMYELITIS INSURANCE

Many USDA employees are carrying polio insurance with the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Co. We are advised by that company that the renewal date on those policies is April 28, 1952, and that new applications received will be made effective on that date. Below are some of the facts concerning their policy:-

For single persons the premium payment is \$2.00 annually. If married the policy will cover your family as well as yourself (husband, wife, and all unmarried children under 21) at a cost of \$4.60 annually. The insurance pays for sickness correctly diagnosed as poliomyelitis, up to an aggregate of \$5,000 for each member or individual, for treatment, care, and expenses, as follows:-

HOSPITAL EXPENSES: Room, board, service of regular attendants, drugs, medicines, physiotherapy, rental of braces, apparatus, equipment, and miscellaneous needed supplies.

MEDICAL SERVICE: Of legally qualified physician, osteopaths, physiotherapist

IRON LUNG: Rental of iron lung or other similar mechanical equipment.

NURSING CARE: Care and attendance by graduate nurses, not members of family.

TRANSPORTATION: Ambulance service to and from hospital; air or railway transportation to prescribed hospital or sanitarium.

USDA members desiring this protection, either on a renewal basis or as a new applicant, should execute the application below and forward it, together with a check or money order to FAE RAY, Chairman, Employee Welfare Committee, 318 Interurban Bldg., by April 10. Policies become effective April 28, 1952 on new applicants, with a waiting period of 14 days from that date. Individual policies will be delivered to applicants by a representative of Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Co. Any questions concerning this insurance should be directed to Miss Ray at the above address, or by telephone, calling station 761.

### USE ONLY FOR POLIOMYELITIS EXPENSE POLICIES

APPLICATION FOR INSURANCE . . . . To Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Co.

I hereby apply for a  Family  Individual policy to be based upon the following representations:-

1. Applicant's name (in full)? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth? \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_ Age? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Residence? \_\_\_\_\_ (Number and Street) \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State)

3. Have you or any member of your family had Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) within the last 90 days? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you represent each and all of the foregoing answers to be true and complete? \_\_\_\_\_

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Agent \_\_\_\_\_ General Agent \_\_\_\_\_ Agency # \_\_\_\_\_